



Our ref: 10993 P6 WO/ASB.pah

Your ref:

Date: 12 February 2004

BY FACSIMILE AND POST

European Patent Office
 Erhardtstrasse 27
 D-80331 Munich
 GERMANY

For the International Examiner

Dear Sirs

International Patent Application No PCT/GB03/01333
Reckitt Benckiser N.V.

Thank you for the PCT Written Opinion, dated 12 November 2003, for which a reply is due by today. Please find enclosed, with this letter an amended set of claims, alongside a hand-amended claims to indicate the additions that have been made.

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to combine it with the subject matter of claim 4, in that the rigid support is a frame and is attached to part of the flexible substrate. In addition, extra subject matter has been added into claim 1, having basis on page 6, lines 30 onwards, that the rigid frame support is smaller than the flexible substrate.

Novelty

It is believed that nowhere is disclosed in the prior art documents cited by the Examiner that a rigid support of this type is a frame, or that the rigid support is smaller in at least one dimension than the flexible substrate to which it is attached. In fact the opposite appears to be true in that the illustrations of all of the documents cited by the Examiner disclose rigid supports which are larger than the flexible substrates to which they are attached.

Inventive Step

The format of the rigid frame support described in the presently amended claim 1, has a number of advantages over the rigid support disclosed in the prior art document, in that:-

1. A large range of different sized flexible substrates may be supported by the rigid frame support and that the frame may therefore be used on a number of different products available in the market place, without the need to tailor the size of frame support to the flexible substrate or vice versa.

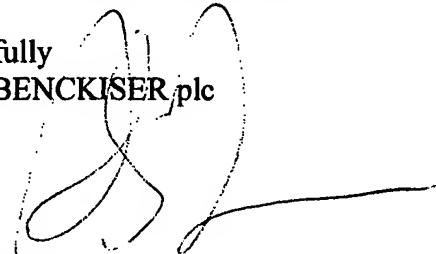
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2. The materials used [redacted] used efficiently by the use of a simple frame design providing good lateral and anti-twisting support with the use of a minimum amount of materials.

I look forward to receiving the Examination Report in the near future.

Yours faithfully
RECKITT BENCKISER plc



Andrew S Brown

Encs

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5. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims

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Claims

1. A process for delivering a fabric treatment agent to
5 a fabric comprising:
 - (a) releasably attaching a rigid support to a part of a flexible substrate onto which is releasably fixed a fabric treatment agent;
 - 10 (b) placing the rigid support/flexible substrate;
 - (c) a fabric inside a fabric treatment machine; and
 - (d) operating the fabric treatment machine;

characterised in that the rigid support is a frame
15 and is smaller than at least the width or length or depth of the flexible substrate.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fabric treatment machine is a tumble dryer or a washing machine.
20
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the fabric treatment machine is operated so that the temperature of the water in the washing machine is
25 greater than or equal to 40°C.
4. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the rigid frame support is smaller than both the width and the length of the flexible

(A) characterized in that the rigid support is a frame and is smaller than at least the width or length or depth of the flexible substrate,
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Claims

1. A process for delivering a fabric treatment agent to a fabric comprising:

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- (a) releasably attaching a rigid support to a part of a flexible substrate onto which is releasably fixed a fabric treatment agent;
- (b) placing the rigid support/flexible substrate and a fabric inside a fabric treatment machine; and
- (c) operating the fabric treatment machine.

(A)>

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fabric treatment machine is a tumble dryer or a washing machine.
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3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the fabric treatment machine is operated so that the temperature of the water in the washing machine is greater than or equal to 40°C.
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4. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the rigid support ^{frame} ~~comprises a frame~~ and a part of the flexible substrate is held in the ~~frame~~ is smaller than both the width and the length of the flexible substrate.
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5. A process as claimed in claims ^{any of the preceding} 4 wherein the frame is an endless frame.

30 6. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the flexible substrate comprises a fibrous material.